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WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



INTERIM REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1939.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

L. G. ANDERSON, M.D. Liverp., Ch.B., D.P.H. Liverp.
(Now serving with The Royal Air Force).

Temporary Medical Officer of Health :

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
(Appointed 28th September, 1939).

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

H. E. GILBY, P.A.S.I., Cert. S.I.B., Diplomee Inst. M. & Cy. E.
Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
(Appointed 26th July, 1939).

Shorthand-Typist :

MISS M. K. HAMMOND.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
FAKENHAM.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1939 which for reasons of economy is presented in a shortened form.

As I did not take up my appointment until the middle of October most of the statistics which follow were compiled by my colleague Dr. Anderson, who was called up for service with the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of War.

The birth-rate per 1,000 population was 14.32 as compared with 15 for England and Wales.

The death-rate, after adjustment, worked out at 10.65, compared with 12.1 for England and Wales. It is slightly higher than that for 1938 which was 10.2.

The infant mortality rate, or deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000, live births was 36.59 which compares very favourably with 50 the rate for England and Wales.

The Zymotic Death Rate, which refers to deaths from Smallpox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age, was zero, a very satisfactory state of affairs.

The incidence of notifiable disease has been low during the year, the largest number being that for diphtheria, of which there were 19 cases, 5 of which were brought into the area by evacuee children. This represents a figure of 1.11 per 1,000 population, 1.14 being the rate for England and Wales. It is specially interesting to note the age distribution of these cases, 10 of the 19 occurring between the ages of 5 and 10. Diphtheria is primarily a disease of early school life. Preventive measures therefore to be effective must be applied before or just after the child begins school. Dr. Anderson had inaugurated his immunisation scheme at the beginning of 1939 and these are the figures for the amount of work done up to the end of the year.

Fakenham	...	600
Wighton	...	40
Great Snoring	...	34
Langham	...	32
Shereford	...	35
Hindringham	...	50
Brinton	...	30

Total 821

Total school population 1,550 (approx.)

Number immunised up to end of December, 1939 ... 821

This represents an acceptance rate of 84%.

There were 10 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year and 19 new cases were notified, while in 1938 there were 20 new cases and 7 deaths.

At the end of 1939, there were 124 cases on the Register, an increase of six since 1938.

During the year there was a change of Staff and the present Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. E. Gilby took up his appointment only a few weeks before I came to the district.

I should like to acknowledge with gratitude the encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of every member of the Staff.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	88,818
Registrar - General's estimate of resident population mid-1939	...	...	...	...	17,040
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to rate-books	...	...	...	...	6,359
Rateable Value (end of 1939)	...	...	...	...	£50,810
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£246

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, *which relate to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.*

		Total.	Males.	Females.		
Live Births 244	{ Legitimate	229	125	104	Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population...	... 14.32
	{ Illegitimate	15	9	6		
	{ Total	244	134	110		
Still Births 8	{ Legitimate	7	2	5	Rate per 1,000 total births ...	... 32.52
	{ Illegitimate	1	1	—		
	{ Total	8	3	5		
Deaths	Total	236	122	114	Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.83
					Adjusted Death rate (Comparability Factor 0.77)	... 10.65

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 births
(a) Puerperal sepsis ...	0	0.00
(b) Other puerperal causes	2	8.13
Total ...	2	8.13

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

	Totals.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	9	7	2
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	9	7	2

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	36.59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births			39.96
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			nil

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar-General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes... ..						122	114
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	4
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	6	3
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases...	...	...	...	...	1	—
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	16	20
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	—
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	9	9
16	Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	39	28
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	9	9
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	4	3
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	2
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	1
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	—
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of the Liver...	...	...	...	...	2	2
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	1
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2
31	Congenital Debility, Prematurity, Mal- formations, etc.	...	...	...	...	4	1
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	3	5
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	8	4
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	7	13
36	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	...	2	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
	Smallpox	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables; the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	1	—
Diphtheria	19	19	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	—
Pneumonia	5	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Totals	34	22	—

Disease.	Under One Year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	Total Cases
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	3	10	1	2	2	—	—	—	19
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	5
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	1	—	3	12	3	3	6	1	3	—	34

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, deaths from the disease, and the total number of cases in the area during 1939 are given in the following tables:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
15—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
TOTALS	9	4	1	5	6	3	1	—

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	42	22	64
Non-Respiratory	31	29	60
TOTALS	73	51	124

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES TABLES.

I.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES			
with mechanical power ...	2	—	—
without mechanical power ...	12	3	—
WORKPLACES	3	—	—
Total	17	3	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary {insufficient	2	2	—	—
Acommodation {unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
{not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—